

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

744 P Street, Sacramento, California 95814



# Children's Residential Care Update

## MARCH 2007

### **COMMUNITY CARE LICENSING DIVISION CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE UPDATE**

Welcome to the first *Children's Residential Care Update* for 2007. Children's Residential Care activities are in spring bloom with new regulations, regulations packages in progress, upcoming conferences, and several staff promotions. We are pleased to keep the residential care community informed about licensing programs and services. Your support in sharing this Update with colleagues in your organization and others interested in children's issues is appreciated.

### **NEW FOSTER YOUTH PERSONAL RIGHTS REGULATIONS**

New Foster Youth Personal Rights (FYPR) regulations became effective February 16, 2007 as a result of Assembly Bill 458, Chapter 331, Statutes of 2003 and Senate Bill (SB) 1639, Chapter 668, Statutes of 2004. Both statutes revise the foster children's "Bill of Rights".

All Children's Residential categories, which are covered by the California Code of Regulations, Title 22, Division 6, Chapters 4, 5, 7, and 9.5 will be affected by these new regulations. These regulations will appear in Small Family Home (SFH) Sections 83064 Licensee Duties and Responsibilities and 83072 Personal Rights; Group Home (GH) Sections 84072, 84172, and 84272 Personal Rights and 84079 Planned Activities; Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) Sections 86072 Personal Rights and 86072.1 Educational Options; and Foster Family Home (FFH) Sections 89372 Personal Rights and 89379 Planned Activities. Highlights of these regulations are:

- The licensee shall allow a child who is 16 years of age or older to access information about available vocational and postsecondary educational options. This information may include, but is not limited to, admission criteria, informational brochures, campus tours, Internet research, school-sponsored events, and financial aid information.

- A child has the personal right to fair and equal access to all available services, placement, care, treatment, and benefits, and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment on the basis of actual or perceived race, ethnic group identification, ancestry, national origin, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, mental or physical disability, or HIV status.
- A child's personal right to fair and equal access and to not be subjected to discrimination or harassment applies to housing, clothing, personal items, school attendance, participation in extracurricular and enrichment activities, social life outside the foster care system, and being treated with respect.
- A child who is 16 years of age or older has the personal right to access existing information about available vocational and postsecondary educational options.
- A child in a Community Treatment Facility has the personal right to be involved in the development of his or her own case plan and plan for permanent placement.

A copy of these regulations can be obtained from the CDSS Office of Regulations Development (ORD) website at

<http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/getinfo/pdf/f110406rNew.pdf>.

## **REGULATION PACKAGES**

**Crisis Nursery (CN) Regulations:** Emergency regulations that create a new Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) category called Crisis Nursery (CN) have been readopted by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). These regulations became effective February 23, 2007, and will remain effective for an additional 120 days. A rennotice will be released to invite public comment on items not addressed in the prior version. A training plan for crisis nursery licensees and licensing staff is currently being developed. Both licensing staff and crisis nursery staff will be invited to receive the training when the regulation package is completed.

These CN regulations implement Senate Bill (SB) 855, Chapter 664, Statutes of 2004. SB 855 defines CNs as facilities that provide short-term, 24-hour non-medical residential care and supervision for children under six years of age who are voluntarily placed in the nursery for up to 30 days by their parents/guardians due to a family crisis or stressful situation. Under SB 855, children may also temporarily be placed in a CN by a county child welfare services agency for no more than 14 days.

A Crisis Nursery (CN):

- May count fully trained volunteers in their staff-to-child ratio.
- Has a maximum licensed capacity of 14.

- Must provide a monthly report to the Department indicating total number of voluntarily placed children, the number of children placed by a child welfare services agency, and length of stay for each child.
- May provide day care services for children less than six years of age at the CN site.

The intent of these emergency CN regulations is to establish minimum health and safety standards for children in care. These regulations also provide for a safe and supportive environment for children as well as a non-threatening, non-punitive resource for parents who may be experiencing a family crisis or stressful situation.

If you have questions about these proposed regulations, please contact our Policy Development Bureau (PDB) at (916) 324-4312. For copies of the proposed regulations or for more information about hearing schedules, please contact the Office of Regulations Development (ORD) at (916) 657-2586 or visit their website at [www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/default.htm](http://www.dss.cahwnet.gov/ord/default.htm). Please note that depending on the version of software that you are currently using, it might be necessary to press your control key to activate the hyperlinks found throughout this document.

## **FIRST AID AND CPR REMINDER**

Be on the alert about available First Aid and CPR training. All certified parents, foster parents, group home personnel, and Transitional Housing Placement Program (THPP) personnel responsible for providing direct care and supervision to children must be trained in First Aid and CPR. First Aid and CPR training is offered by the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA)-approved vendors, and accredited local colleges and universities. A First Aid Certificate is current for three years. A CPR certificate may be current for one or two years. First Aid and CPR certificates are current until the expiration date shown on the certificate. When these certificates expire, renewal First Aid and CPR training must be taken. Initial and renewal First Aid and CPR training is required to be taken in addition to other initial and annual training requirements in regulations. You can learn about specific course offerings on the American Red Cross Health and Safety website at <http://www.redcross.org/services/hss/> and the American Heart Association website at <http://www.americanheart.org/presenter.jhtml?identifier=3012360>. The EMSA has a list of approved First Aid and CPR training vendors on its website at <http://www.emsa.ca.gov/emsddivision/ccfacpr.pdf>.

## **2007 FOSTER FAMILY HOME (FFH) COUNTY ACADEMY**

The Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) County Liaison Program will offer two (2) Foster Family Home (FFH) County Academies statewide in 2007. These are specifically for new county foster care licensing staff. Please mark your calendars for the following dates and locations:

**Date**

**Location**

- |    |                              |                   |
|----|------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) | April 10-13, 2007            | Ventura County    |
| 2) | July 31 and August 1-3, 2007 | Sacramento County |

Each FFH County Academy participant will be required to attend four days of training. Enrollment is limited to 30 participants per location. Once we receive your county's registration request, a liaison will contact you via e-mail to verify location and space availability. The liaison will provide the exact site address for each location once your registration is confirmed. For any additional information, please contact your county liaison directly or Carmen Rollins, County Liaison at (909) 931-5705.

**UPCOMING FOSTER FAMILY AGENCY (FFA) AND GROUP HOME (GH) CONFERENCES**

**2007 Foster Family Agency (FFA) Conference:** The 2007 Foster Family Agency (FFA) Training Conference is being hosted by the Central California Children's Residential Regional Office. It is being planned for the fall (Oct/Nov 2007). Invitation letters and registration information will be mailed out soon.

**2007 Group Home (GH) Conference:** The 2007 Group Home (GH) Training Conference is being hosted by the LA Metro and Valley Children's Residential Regional Office. It is being planned for the fall (Oct/Nov 2007). Invitation letters and registration information will be mailed out soon.

**CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE PROGRAM STAFF CHANGES**

We are pleased to announce the following managerial promotions in the Children's Residential Care Program:

- Kellee Coleman, Licensing Program Manager (LPM), LA Metro
- Stephanie Hudak, Licensing Program Manager (LPM), Pacific Inland
- Tira Logan, Licensing Program Manager (LPM), LA Tri-Coastal
- Tammy Rivera, Staff Services Manager (SSM), Statewide Program Office

**RESIDENTIAL CARE STATISTICS**

All of the statistics for licensed Children's Residential Care facilities are available online. When you visit the CCLD home page at [www.cclid.ca.gov](http://www.cclid.ca.gov), please click on the link on the left side of the page that is titled, "Licensing Overview." Then click on the first bullet that says, "Number of State Licensed Facilities, by County." Scroll to the end of the document for the statewide totals. Further breakouts by category and location are also available. Please contact Suzann Paolini, Central Operations Branch, at (916) 327-0992 for assistance. Directories can also be obtained from your local Children's Residential Program licensing office. Please see the attached list for telephone numbers and locations of Children's Residential Program offices.

## **SUMMARY**

If you have questions about items included in this *Children's Residential Care Update* or suggestions for future topics, please contact Barbara Rooney, Chief of the Technical Assistance and Policy Branch (TAPB) at (916) 653-2346. Also, please visit our Community Care Licensing Division (CCLD) website at [www.cclid.ca.gov](http://www.cclid.ca.gov) to obtain copies of Updates, office locations, provider letters, regulations, or to learn more about licensing services.

Sincerely,

**(Original Signed by)**

JO FREDERICK

Deputy Director

Community Care Licensing Division

Enclosure